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September 4, 2001

The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Abraham,

I had the privilege to hear your remarks at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois earlier this summer. It was obvious that you encourage public dialogue on issues of your department.

Therefore, I ask you to reschedule the hearings about the DOE's site recommendations of Yucca Mountain for a national high level nuclear waste repository.

The public notice announcing the hearings was flawed in several ways:

- the notice provided a hearing place, canceled it, and then gave another site with the wrong address, the final notice published on August 31, just before the Labor Day weekend and less than 5 days before the hearing,
- The public notice was misleading as to the intent of the hearing. The impression was given that these hearings would be on the preliminary site suitability, not on the decision of your department to recommend Yucca Mountain as the repository.
- The public would be denied meaningful participation due to the totally inadequate, less than 30 day notice, it does not give enough time to sufficiently prepare for comment on a 370 page technical document,
- there will be no opportunity for people all over the US to comment on the suitability of the recommendation on the required transportation of nuclear waste through their communities, 3 hearings in Nevada cannot accomplish that, again, the public would be denied meaningful participation.

The people deserve to have proper notice, have the opportunity to have a meaningful part in the decision making process, and an opportunity to be heard on decisions as this one. Basically, we have a right to due process. Please ensure that we do and reschedule the hearings.

Sincerely,


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